

Day 7 Wed. March 4 Proverbs 25:28

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. 人不制伏自己的脾气，就好像毁坏的城邑，没有墙垣。

The picture that this verse draws for us is pretty clear, isn't it? In ancient times, a city was only as safe as the walls protecting it. High, strong walls meant that it could withstand an attack. Walls that were broken down invited trouble. Bandits, murderers, rapists, those looking for slaves could walk right in and pillage. When we lack self-control, we are open to all manner of trouble. We are likely to say hurtful things or things that get us into trouble. We may have difficulty stopping sinful urges and can find ourselves under the control of bad habits. We may jeopardize those we love the most or we may ruin years of our lives. Galatians 5:23 tells us that self-control is part of the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit when we are yielded to His control. Spend some time today evaluating the state of your walls at the present time. Are there areas of your life in which self-control is lacking? Are the walls of self-control produced by the Holy Spirit strong and protective? Picture a city with broken down walls – see its vulnerable state. Then ask the LORD to teach you about self-control and ask the Spirit to see it come forth from your life. Pray about any areas being threatened by a lack of self-control.

QUOTE: "Of all forms of deception, self-deception is the most deadly, and of all deceived persons, the self-deceived are the least likely to discover the fraud." A.W. Tozer

PRAYER: Pray for someone today that you may know who is wrestling with a lack of self-control. Ask the LORD to open their eyes to see clearly what the issues truly are and find the help of the Holy Spirit.

SONG: Stronger

There is love that came for us; Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness;
You rose again victorious

2. Faithfulness none can deny
through the storm and through the fire

There is truth that sets me free, Jesus Christ who lives in me
(chorus) You are stronger, You are stronger;

Sin is broken, You have saved me

It is written Christ is risen;

Jesus you are Lord of all

3. No beginning and no end You're my hope and my defense

You came to seek and save the lost,

You paid it all upon the cross (to chorus)

(Bridge) So let Your Name be lifted higher

Be lifted higher Be lifted higher

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Day 8 Thur. March 5 Luke 12: 2 (note Day 4 should have been Pro. 18:10)

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 隐藏的事没有不被揭露的，隐秘的事没有不被人知道的。

Our tendency in life is to look try to good in front of others but perhaps be someone different when no one is looking. The context of this verse is that our Lord tells his disciples to "*Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.*" The word 'hypocrite' (in Greek) was someone who acted on stage, a pretender – usually using a mask that concealed their true face. Jesus uses a command verb to His disciples to '*Keep on being on their guard*' against hypocrisy. Why? Because it is a constant temptation to pretend to be something we are not or to try to conceal what is true about us which we prefer that others not know. Jesus called the Pharisees '*white-washed tombs full of dead man's bones.*' In other words, just a thin coating on the outside that might look good, but the inside is dead. The Pharisees loved the important places in the synagogue and loved it when people gave them respect due to their outward religious acts. Of course, God Almighty sees right through all of this just as He sees through whatever act I am putting on or face that conceals how I truly am or feel. There's a day coming in which all of that will be made known which is a scary thought that should cause us to fear Almighty God! So, why pretend? Why hide behind masks? Why try to appear to be better, more holy, more all-together than we really are? Meditate on the words of Jesus. Read through the verse several times. Ask the Holy Spirit, "Lord, what do I try to conceal in my life? Where am I a hypocrite? What do I hope that others do not discover about me? Show me falsehood in my life! Help me be on constant guard against hypocrisy." Then, spend some time listening to Him and chewing on His truth throughout this day.

QUOTE: "Hypocrites are like paintings on canvas, they show fairest at the farthest." Thomas Adams (Puritan)

PRAYER: Pray for our older children: Sirun and Lukas as they grow up in this age in which most people believe that there is no ultimate truth. Pray that they will receive God's word as it truly is and allow it to penetrate their hearts and minds each day. Pray for their protection from the evil one.

SONG: O Great God

O great God of highest heaven, Occupy my lowly heart
Own it all and reign supreme, Conquer every rebel power
Let no vice or sin remain, That resists Your holy war
You have loved and purchased me, Make me Yours forevermore

VERSE 2 I was blinded by my sin, Had no ears to hear Your voice

Did not know Your love within, Had no taste for heaven's joys

Then Your Spirit gave me life. Opened up Your Word to me

Through the gospel of Your Son, Gave me endless hope and peace

VERSE 3 Help me now to live a life That's dependent on Your grace

Keep my heart and guard my soul From the evils that I face

You are worthy to be praised With my every thought and deed

O great God of highest heaven Glorify Your Name through me

Music and words by Bob Kauflin. Based on The Valley of Vision prayer

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Day 9 Friday March 6 Luke 12:15

Then he said to them, “**Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**” 于是对众人说：「你们要谨慎自守，免去各般的贪婪；因为人的生命不在于产业丰富。」 Here are two other present tense commands by our Lord. “Keep on watching out! Keep on being on your guard!” We can NEVER let our guard down and should always keep watching out for the great danger that greed or covetousness poses to us all. What prompted this command was a man who came up to our Lord and demanded that He get involved in settling a financial dispute between brothers. Jesus refused to get involved but used it as an opportunity to teach His disciples. The general belief of the day was that those who were wealthy must surely be living under God’s blessing because they had so much. This is true in our world as well as we often judge the very wealthy & successful people as superior to others. ‘They must be doing things right because look at how much they have’ -is the line of thinking. Jesus is concerned about our hearts. He knows that greed is a constant enemy of the life of faith and trust in Him. The more we have, the less we depend on our Heavenly Father and the more we trust in things to bring us joy. Greed can consume us even if we already have a lot. Something newer, faster, more comfortable, softer, flashier, etc. is always calling for our attention and affection. **Life, however, is NOT about possessions** – many or few. Life is about living in a loving relationship with Jesus. Life is about experiencing the joy of loving others and being filled up with the fulness of God (Eph. 3:19). The things of this world cannot supply these. Spend some time asking the Lord to show you how you can “Watch out” & “Be on your guard” against greed. Then spend time meditating on the rest of the verse reminding yourself of this vital truth.

PRAYER: Pray for our Sunday School teachers - from nursery up through high school. Pray that they would be effective in communicating God’s truth and caring for the needs of students.

SONG: [Fill Thou my life](#)

Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God, In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim Thy being and Thy ways.
2. Not for the lip of praise alone, Nor e'en the praising heart,
I ask, but for a life made up Of praise in every part:
3. Praise in the common things of life, Its goings out and in;
Praise in each duty and each deed, However small and mean.
4. Fill every part of me with praise; Let all my being speak
Of Thee and of Thy love, O Lord, Poor though I be and weak.
5. So shall no part of day or night From sacredness be free,
But all my life, in every step, Be fellowship with Thee.

Day 10 Saturday March 7 Luke 12:32

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 「你们这小撮人，不要惧怕，因为你们的父乐意把国赐给你们。」

Another present tense command with a negative which means **STOP being afraid!** The context of this verse begins with Jesus telling us to STOP BEING ANXIOUS (12:22) about your life, what you will eat, and what you will wear. He then goes on to talk about how God takes care of the ravens and how He clothes the grass with beautiful but temporary lilies. He wants us to trust our Heavenly Father for what we need in life rather than spending our energy in worrying about how we will acquire them for ourselves. Our Father knows we need them, and our job is to trust Him and seek His kingdom first (v. 31). Then comes verse 32. God is PLEASED, it is His GOOD PLEASURE (ESV) to GIVE us the kingdom! So, we can then spend our time laying up treasure in heaven through giving rather than keeping for ourselves. We cannot earn our place in God’s kingdom. He is the King and He is the one who decides who will enter His kingdom. God takes pleasure in making us a part of His kingdom and giving us access to its abundance. People who lack the assurance of salvation are often very afraid that they haven’t done enough to secure their spot in God’s kingdom. Some are anxious right up until the moment they die. God wants for us to live life fully trusting Him, to experience His pleasure in His generosity, to rest in being part of His kingdom already because of Jesus’ work in saving us, and to be part of His little flock – to live like a meek sheep who trust the Good Shepherd. Where is anxiety seeking to rob you of simple trust in the Father? Where is fear making it hard for you rest and experience God’s pleasure? Spend some time meditating upon the joyful truth of this verse and then think how you can live a life of giving and peace.

QUOTE: “Fear is that little darkroom where negatives are developed.” Michael Pritchard “Why should I fear? I am on a Royal Mission. I am in the service of the King of kings.” Mary Slessor missionary giant.

PRAYER: Pray for Susana (Moody student) who will be going to Mexico during Spring Break. She writes: “During my time in Mexico I’m hoping to reconnect with some of my friends. Not all of them are believers so I would love your prayers that God would open up opportunities to bring up the gospel. Some of them are in difficult places in their life right now, so I hope that the Lord uses me as a source of encouragement. Some of them grew up in the orphanage system so for them it has been difficult maneuvering life as young adults without a family to support and encourage them. So, I hope that they can sense Gods love and be encouraged by our time together. Thank you!”

SONG: [He is Able](#)

He is able, more than able, to accomplish what concerns me today.
He is able, more than able, to handle anything that comes my way.
He is able, more than able, to do much more than I could ever dream.
He is able, more than able, To make me what He wants me to be.
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Sunday March 8 Review the verses from the week.

Isaiah 41:13

For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. 因为我耶和华你的神必搀扶你的右手，对你说，不要害怕！我正在帮助你。

Psalm 86:11

Teach me Your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name. 耶和华啊，指教我如何活着，就要遵从你的命令，使我专心委身于你！

Proverbs 25:28

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control. 人不制伏自己的脾气，就好像毁坏的城邑，没有墙垣。

Luke 12: 2

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 隐藏的事没有不被揭露的，隐秘的事没有不被人知道的。

Luke 12:15

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Luke 12:32

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O Breath of Life

O Breath of life, come sweeping through us, Revive Your church with life and power; O Breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us, And fit Your church to meet this hour.

2.O Wind of God, come bend us, break us, ‘Til humbly we confess our need; Then in Your tenderness remake us, Revive, restore, for this we plead.

3. O Breath of love, come breathe within us, Renewing thought and will and heart; Come, Love of Christ, afresh to win us, Revive Your church in every part.

4. O Heart of Christ, once broken for us, 'Tis there we find our strength and rest; Our broken, contrite hearts now strengthen, And let Your waiting church be blest.

5. Revive us, Lord! Is passion fading While harvest fields are vast and white? Revive, us Lord, the world is waiting, Equip Your church to spread the light.

Day 11 Monday March 9 Psalm 119:165

Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble. 爱你律法的人有大平安，甚么都不能使他们跌倒

The word “law” is often misunderstood. In the Old Testament, the word in Hebrew is *Torah*. It is NOT the opposite of grace! The *Torah* was given by God as His loving instructions, the revelation of His will for His people to experience the best kind of living when they obeyed Him. By obeying the *Torah*, they were not seeking to earn God’s favor in order to gain something but were wanting to live in a way that pleased the One who redeemed them. Jesus also calls us to obey His word in John 14:14; 15:10 (for example). Why would the psalmist tell us that those who love God’s law have great peace if it was something that represented earning God’s favor or a life of works? When we love God’s law, we love Him because we know His instructions for our lives are for our good. We love knowing what is good for us to abstain from: lying, committing adultery, slandering people, stealing, idolatry, etc. We also love knowing that God revealed His truth so that we can please Him by loving Him, loving our neighbor, being merciful, giving generously, having compassion for those in need, encouraging one another, etc. You will not stumble in life when you are living according to God’s instructions – His loving truth that is revealed for our good. His GREAT peace, *shalom*, is one of the end results of living this way. *Shalom* carries the meaning of wholeness, completeness, and peace as well. Every time you read a command in Scripture, look at it positively, knowing it is revealed to us because of God’s love for us.

Imagine spending your life trying to guess what God would want you to do and be! For those who have been born-again in Christ, He has written His *Torah* upon our hearts (Jer. 31:33 – Heb. 8:10). Spend time meditating upon Ps. 119:165. The more you love God’s instructions, the more of His peace you will experience and the fewer missteps you will take. Ask Him to reveal how you are doing in loving His word and obeying it.

QUOTE: “The law by which God rules us, is as dear to Him as the Gospel by which He saves us.” William Secker

PRAAYER: Steve & Joan Eis., working in Indianapolis with Internationals ask for prayer that “Bea” would know God’s guidance and help in her daily challenges. Pray for the Mosaic International Community (that they lead) that their team would know how to process the good input that they received at a recent banquet and how to continue to encourage a Christ-centered multicultural community within our church.

SONG: King of my heart 1. Let the King of my heart, be the mountain where I run; The fountain I drink from, oh He is my song; Let the King of my heart, be the shadow where I hide; The ransom for my life, oh He is my Song

[Chorus] **You are good, good, o – h You are good, good, o - h**

2. Let the King of my heart, be the wind inside my sails; The anchor in the waves, oh He is my song; Let the King of my heart, be the fire inside my veins

The echo of my days, oh He is my song TO CHORUS

3. Let the King of my heart, be my hope in every day; The One to which I pray, oh, He is my song; Let the King of my heart, be the Rock I stand upon

The joy found all day long, oh, He is my song TO CHORUS

Verses 1 & 2 & music By John Mark McMillan, Sarah McMillan © Produced by: Bethel Music Used by permission

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Day 12 Tues. March 10 Psalm 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against You. 我将你的话藏在心里，免得我得罪你。

Other versions: NAS - Your word I have treasured in my heart...
ESV - I have stored up your word in my heart...

The Message: I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won't sin myself bankrupt.

This verse could also be our theme verse for Lent because by meditating and memorizing God's word, we store it in our heart, we hide it within us, we treasure it – bank it within us. As we store it within, the Holy Spirit can use it mightily in our lives. One of the ways in which He uses it is to keep us from sin. As soon as I'm ready to tear someone down, Prov. 12:18 comes to my mind: *Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.* The Spirit says something like "Don't stab that person with those hurtful words, let your tongue bring them help, healing, encouragement." By not storing up God's word, I leave myself often weaponless (the sword of the Spirit Eph. 6:17) to do battle against the enemy and sin. If you are struggling in an area of behavior, attitude, thought-life – find a verse that speaks to that area and hide it in your heart. You may be amazed at what God does with His word that you have taken the time to treasure in your heart! Spend some time meditating upon Psalm 119:11 and then ask God to lead you in this time of Lent. What verses come to mind as you think about what you should be storing up in your heart?

QUOTE: "Memorizing Scripture is the daily habit of supplying the subconscious with God's material to chew on." Bob Foster

PRAYER: Christina Stidham, working with OMF in Thailand, will be coming back to the U.S. for a home assignment on March 24th. She will be flying through Seoul so pray that by that day there won't be any restrictions. Pray for this time to be refreshing and that she'll sense the Lord's leading her forward.

HYMN: Open my Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may see, glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear, voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Day 13 Wednesday March 11 Psalm 119:34

Give me understanding, and that I may observe your law and obey it with all my heart. 求你赐我悟性，使我能遵守你的律法，且要一心遵守

We should hide God's word in our hearts & meditate upon it, but we also need to pray for UNDERSTANDING! It is difficult to observe, to "guard with fidelity" (TWOT) something that we do not understand or grasp. Other translations use the word 'keep' or 'obey.' Parents get into trouble in their parenting when they expect something to be obeyed but they really haven't carefully explained the details and the reasons for the instruction. God does not owe us understanding but keeping/observing His wonderful *Torah* is more delightful when the Holy Spirit brings His illumination and application to us. This is the promise of John 16:13 *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth...* We have within us, God's resident Teacher, and He WILL guide us into all truth when we pray and ask for understanding! But, with answer to prayer comes responsibility. That is why the psalmist goes on to say that as he receives understanding, he will observe/keep the *Torah* and obey it will all of his heart. I fear that the Holy Spirit has often shown us truth to apply to our lives, but we disregard it or fail to heed it. The result is that we begin to suffer from a little bit of "Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy" (HCM) which is a condition in which the heart muscle becomes thick. The thickening can make it harder for blood to leave the heart, forcing the heart to work harder to pump blood. It also can make it harder for the heart to relax and fill with blood. (www.medicinenet.com) I'm speaking, of course, in a figurative sense – when we harden our hearts by not obeying, observing God's word. It DOES have an impact upon us and makes it more difficult for the life of the Spirit to flow in us. Spend time asking for understanding and then pray for that sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's teaching & illumination for application.

QUOTE: "Religion says: I obey therefore I am accepted. The Gospel says: I'm accepted therefore I obey." Tim Keller

PRAYER: Andreas is scheduled to return on March 13. Pray for him as he seeks to wrap things up in helping his father's business and helping his widowed mother. It has not been easy, and he is liable to come home tired and burdened. Pray for him that the Lord will be his help & strength. Pray for a good reconnection with Lucy & Anna. Pray for his job here as he starts again. Lift our dear brother before God's throne.

SONG: You Are My King

I'm forgiven, Because You were forsaken, I'm accepted,
You were condemned. I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me
Because You died, And rose again
Amazing love, How can it be That You my King, Would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor You, In all I do I honor You
You are my King You are my King
Jesus You are my King , Jesus You are my King
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